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EXCISE

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WEDNESDAY
JULY 1, 1953

I started off this morning from the Embassy to call on Taviani at the Foreign Office. He thinks our propaganda is dreadful [redacted] He believes de Gasperi will encounter difficulties in getting the EDC Treaty through the Parliament. He considers Churchill's speech proposing a four-power meeting has had nothing but harmful effects. Altogether, he was not in a gay mood.

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From the Chigi Palace - surely the most imposing foreign office building in the world - Count Magistrati and I rode out to see de Gasperi in his modest villa at Castel Gondolfo, which was presented to him by his party. The view is magnificent -- the lake far below on one side, on the other the smiling and fruitful plain.

De Gasperi was in a bitter mood over Churchill's speech, which he said had cost his coalition the votes that would have given it a clear majority. He said he had reproached Churchill for it in the frankest way during his recent visit to London, and that Winston had accepted his criticism generously. De Gasperi insists that the only safe way to unite Germany is within a united Europe, and we should go ahead with the EDC and EPC and try to get them passed before talking to the Russians. He realizes this may be impracticable because of Adenauer's domestic political situation and is ready to accept Adenauer's opinion as to what had best be done. It was made evident that he did not wish France to speak for Italy at any international conferences, and he says a method must be found for the United States to consult fully with its European partners before adopting any position vis-à-vis the Russians on matters of European concern.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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De Gasperi is a notably sympathetic man. He is evidently fatigued, and shrinks from what will probably prove the necessity of trying to form a new

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overnment. His wife is fearful of his health and would prefer [redacted] he leave the task to a younger man.

E. and I went to lunch with Clare Luce at Villa Taverna. I had seen her for a moment this morning at Castel Gondolfo, where she had immediately preceded me in talking to de Gasperi. I was followed in the morning's interviews by Adlai Stevenson, who had arrived yesterday in Rome. He gave me an appointment for six this evening.

Clare was beautiful and charming. We discussed what might be done to achieve close policy coordination regarding Europe through NATO and she is going to send off a message on the subject. I feel certain that after the German elections our consultations with our associates must be more intimate, for there is now a great resistance to having the U.S., U.K. and France take initiatives which the other powers are supposed to follow.

Clare is overwhelmed with visitors and mail and impositions on her time of many kinds. She is keeping a record to be used some day in an effort to bring about a reform in the general American attitude toward the duties of an Ambassador. Thousands of our compatriots really seem to think that an American Ambassador is stationed abroad to run a non-stop entertainment (almost entirely at his or her personal expense) for visiting transients. The citizens of no other nation share this view.

I do not know whether Clare likes this job or not, but she is handling it with great diligence and determination.

Tonight we walked through lovely Piazza Navona and dined at Passetto's splendid restaurant. Audrey is still [redacted] low, [redacted] subsisting on baked

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potatoes and an occasional dab of pasta. She is weak but cheerful.

Before dinner I had gone to see Adlai Stevenson at the Hassler, and he, Anne O'Hare McCormick and I had a [redacted] pleasant time together. He is the most agreeable, quick-witted man imaginable. After Anne left, I stayed on a while and talked of general political matters. He is buried under an avalanche of mail and telephone calls wherever he goes. Messrs. Blair, Atwood, and two of his sons - John Fell and Borden - were with him. He told Mrs. McCormick [redacted] he had never at any time wanted the Democratic presidential nomination, but had fervently desired to be reelected Governor of Illinois.

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